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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 CIAE-00 INR-06 IO-12 JUS-02 NSAE-00  
RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-05  
OMB-01 AGR-20 AID-20 RSR-01 /122 W  
----- 059026

R 120750Z OCT 72  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9963  
BNDD HQT WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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DEPARTMENT FOR SNM AND INEA

SUBJ: NARCOTICS; DRASTIC REDUCTION IN IRANIAN  
POPPY CULTIVATION IN 1973.

SUMMARY: GOI HAS DECIDED TO REDUCE AUTHORIZED  
AREA FOR POPPY CULTIVATION IN 1973 TO 10 PER CENT  
OF 1972 LEVEL. END SUMMARY

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT CONSIDER CONGRATULATORY  
MESSAGE FROM APPROPRIATE US OFFICIAL, WHEN GOI PUBLICLY  
ANNOUNCES DECISION.

1. MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES HAS INFORMED US THAT  
GOI WILL AUTHORIZE CULTIVATION OF ONLY 2,000 (TWO  
THOUSAND) HECTARES OF OPIUM POPPIES IN CROP YEAR  
1973, AS COMPARED WITH 20,000 (TWENTY THOUSAND)  
HECTARES IN 1972. DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED  
IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE, OR OTHERWISE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED,  
BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS FINAL.

2. DECISION TAKEN BECAUSE AMOUNT OF OPIUM IN STORAGE  
FROM LEGAL CULTIVATION AND SMUGGLING SEIZURES IS

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SURPLUS TO NEEDS OF REGISTERED ADDICTS BY ALMOST ONE YEAR'S SUPPLY. THIS IMPLIES, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED IT, CONCOMITANT TACIT DECISION NOT TO LOWER AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION, AS OCCASIONALLY DISCUSSED.

3. REDUCATION DECISION APPLIES ONLY TO 1973 CROP YEAR, BUT IT SHOWS WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY OF GOI TO MAKE DRASTIC CUTS IN OPIUM PRODUCTION WHENEVER INDICATED. SINCE ALL LEGAL GROWERS ARE MEMBERS OF STATE-SPONSORED COOPERATION, GOI HAS MEANS ALREADY AT HAND TO ENFORCE

CUTS AND MINIMIZE EFFECT ON FARMERS' INCOME. WE UNDERSTAND GOI IS CONSIDERING WAYS OF USING CUT TO DRAMATIZE TO NEIGHBORING PRODUCING COUNTRIES ITS LONG-STANDING POSITION THAT IT WILL REIMPOSE COMPLETE PRODUCTION BAN WHEN NEIGHBORS ABLE TO RECIPROCATATE.

4. ONCE GOI HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED DECISION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR APPROPRIATE US OFFICIAL TO ISSUE STATEMENT OR SEND MESSAGE CONGRATULATING GOI ON DECISION AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT PROGRESS BY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN HALTING ILLICIT POPPY CULTIVATION WILL SOON MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR GOI TO IMPLEMENT ITS DECLARED INTENT TO REIMPOSE TOTAL BAN WHEN SMUGGLING THREAT FROM NEIGHBORS ELIMINATED.  
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